

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

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USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, WB

SUBJECT: PROPOSED JOINT MEETING BUNDESTAG COMMITTEES
IN BERLIN

REFS: (A) BERLIN 1607, AUG 12, 1971 (B) BONN 13864
(C) BERLIN 1663

1. IN VIEW CONGRUITY OF SUBJECT MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED
BY COMMITTEES AND ITS CLEAR RELATIONSHIP TO BERLIN, WE
CONCUR THAT MEETING OF INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
COMMITTEES FALLS WITHIN OUR INTERPRETATION OF GENTLEMEN'S
AGREEMENT.

2. CONCERNING TERMINOLOGICAL QUESTION RAISED PARA 2,
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REFTEL C, WE INTERPRET GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT AS APPLYING

IN PRINCIPLE TO "JOINT" MEETINGS. HOWEVER, WE ALSO
CONCUR THAT THIS IS NOT PROPITIOUS MOMENT TO OPEN UP
POSSIBLE NEW INTERPRETATIVE ARGUMENT WITH SOVIETS OVER
PRECISE MEANING OF GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT AND, UNLESS
THERE IS SOME ADVANTAGE TO FRG WHICH WE DO NOT PERCEIVE
IN DEFINING MEETING AS "JOINT" RATHER THAN "SIMULTANEOUS",
WE PREFER THAT MEETING BE CAST IN SAME TERMS AS PREVIOUS
SESSIONS. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD NOT CONSIDER IT WISE
THAT THE INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, WHICH IS ALREADY
VIEWED CONTROVERSIALLY BY SOVIETS AND GDR, BE USED TO TEST
LIMITS OF GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT.

3. WE APPRECIATE THE EARLY FRG CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES
ON THIS MATTER. KISSINGER

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